The Builder.

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TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.

We mistake not, the new-come year will be one of great activity, anxious struggle, and eager reformation. We see on our own particular horizon the evidence of movement in all directions, and we are prepared, to the extent of our ability, to record, make known, advocate, or oppose, as circumstances may seem to demand; always honestly, even though it be weakly, and with an anxious *desire* at all times to do right, even though we may occasionally seem to be going wrong. We have so often set before our readers, on commencing a fresh volume, the intentions and scope of our work, that it cannot be necessary to do so now, or to make any fresh promises to induce our old readers and friends to stand by us. Suffice it to say, that so far from relaxing in our efforts to raise the character of THE BUILDER, and to effect those improvements and give that information which are its great objects, these endeavours will be increased, encouraged as we are by the success which has attended them. The estimation in which THE BUILDER is held throughout the United Kingdom, conveyed to us by many flattering testimonies, the influence it exercises, and its constantly increasing circulation—are much more than commensurate with its merits. It shall be our unceasing endeavour to render it worthy of the favour which is shown to it.

Our title, "THE BUILDER," is still erroneously regarded by many in a narrow and confined sense,—as appertaining simply to the wants and advantage of a class. Looked at properly, and it is gradually becoming more and more so, it has a wide significance, and embraces legitimately the consideration of subjects which ought to interest nine-tenths of the population.

As regards classes, we care no more for architects or engineers than we do for builders,—each in their province,—and we are as warmly anxious to assist in bettering the condition and raising the character of workmen as we are to obtain information for their masters, and to secure for all three that consideration on the part of the public to which they are entitled. Each is interested in the prosperity of the other; all, as we said in our closing article last week, are mutually dependent—portions of a brotherhood, wherein, however, there is necessarily a gradation of ranks.

In the elevation of the operative classes we feel the deepest interest, and we will not cease from impressing on them the importance of self-culture,—the acquirement of knowledge,—the abandonment of habits that degrade.

"Those who think must govern those who toil."

He who plies his muscles daily in one direction, without attempting to improve his faculties, by applying to them the mental resources of which the human race is so abundantly possessed, is but a degree less indolent than he who also refuses to give more muscular exertion.

As a man obtains skill so does he become less a slave—so will he find himself with greater intervals of leisure for further improvement,—so will he be able to look around at nature and at art, and to devote somewhat of his life, between the cradle and the grave, to those nobler thoughts and aspirations, for which the human being can only prepare himself by shaking off the dust, and fleeing from the din, of busy life. It is thus that the great author, statesman, or engineer, while the world is wondering at the multiplicity and extent of the labours he accomplishes, may be met musing in the solitudes of the Alps; or perchance in these days, when his skilful labours have removed so many of the impediments of time and place, he may even find leisure to wander among the tombs of Thebes, or to gaze upon the Holy City. Alas! for the unskilled and unlaborious man, whose sole contribution to the exactness of busy civilization is some uniform movement of his body! The times are exacting; and since he fails to contribute his share in the intenseness of his exertion, he is bound to give it in continuity; to resign every hour seizable from needful rest, yet without satisfying his rigid master, the world. He is the true slave of civilization. He has not an hour which he can call his own. If his machine-like motion ceases, his bread ceases also; and every minute of relaxation must be bought with a portion of subsistence."*

If we urge similarly on those who are to be masters, and on some in higher stations, the importance of a stringent and comprehensive education, the right "leading forth," so to speak (educo), we must not be accused of vanity or presumption; the writer is too acutely sensible of his own deficiencies to be prompted by such feelings; the advice proceeds from a remembrance of wasted hours and neglected opportunities, and a desire to save others vain regrets in after life. Men are now pushing on vigorously; they who pause will be passed—if not crushed.

In the time that is coming the architect who would take a place, *and keep it*, will need to be well prepared; and all must see, with pleasure, evidences, among the students of to-day, that they feel this necessity, and are buckling on their armour. Let them remember the teaching of a Hindoo sage, quoted by Mr. Fergusson in his excellent work on "The Principles of Beauty." "An architect," says he, and Vitruvius said the same thing before him, "should be conversant in all sciences, ever attentive to his avocation; of an unblemished character; *generous, sincere, and devoid of enmity or jealousy.*"

We look for improvements in our own noble art in England: gradual they must necessarily be, but that they are coming we feel assured. Much was done towards this when we began to think with Boileau, that—

"*Rien n'est beau que le vrai, le vrai seul est aimable.*"†

The improvement of dwellings for the middle classes as well as the poor; the advancement of sanitary arrangements; the revision of the Metropolitan Buildings Act; the removal of the taxes on light, and bricks; the union of all persons connected with and interested in architecture, to be brought about by the removal of unwise restrictions in the laws of the Royal Institute of Architects; the improved administration of competitions; the proper recognition of artists; the establishment of the Provident Institution for Building Operatives;† improved supply of gas and pure water; the prevention of intra-mural burials and the provision of fitting places of interment (to which architects should now give consideration); improved modes of construction; the protection of the honourable and prudent builder against the speculative and dishonest,—are amongst the subjects which will claim our attention; and we shall regularly place before our readers correct illustrations of the principal new buildings that may be erected, and of such ancient works as may serve for models.

A continuance of the favour and consideration which have been shown to THE BUILDER, will go far towards ensuring to us, what we most cordially wish our readers,

A Happy New Year.

An index to our last volume, with title-page, is presented *gratuitously* with the present number. A title-page in colours may be had on application, also gratuitously, by those subscribers who prefer it to that which accompanies the index.‡

ON THE SUPPLY OF THE CATTLE MARKETS AND THE ABATTOIRS OF PARIS.

BEFORE adopting any definite measures for the re-organization of the cattle market of London, it may be advisable to examine those which are followed in other countries. Now, as the whole of the continent derives its organization, in these municipal affairs, from the example set by Paris; and as the system adopted there is unquestionably the most perfect, it may be useful to place before your readers some notes upon the subject? It is true that after the elaborate treatise of Mr. Grantham, and after Lord R. Grosvenor's evidence before the Smithfield Committee, such notes may appear superfluous. But neither of those gentlemen have given complete statistical information as to the supply of the markets; nor

* Hill's Social and Political Economy.

* "Nothing is beautiful but the *true*, truth alone is lovely."—*Prom. Liber.*

† Some of our readers will be glad to hear that the proposal made some time since to establish an "Architects' Benevolent Society," has now taken a form, and that an address from the promoters of it will be issued to the profession in a few days. Messrs. Cockerell, Barry, and Hardwick, have agreed to be trustees: Mr. Sydney Smirke, president, and Mr. Tite, treasurer.

‡ Covers for THE BUILDER may be obtained at the Office, price 2s., or the publisher will undertake to bind the numbers at 3s. per volume.

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